



The Role of the Ambulance Service at a Public Health Incident



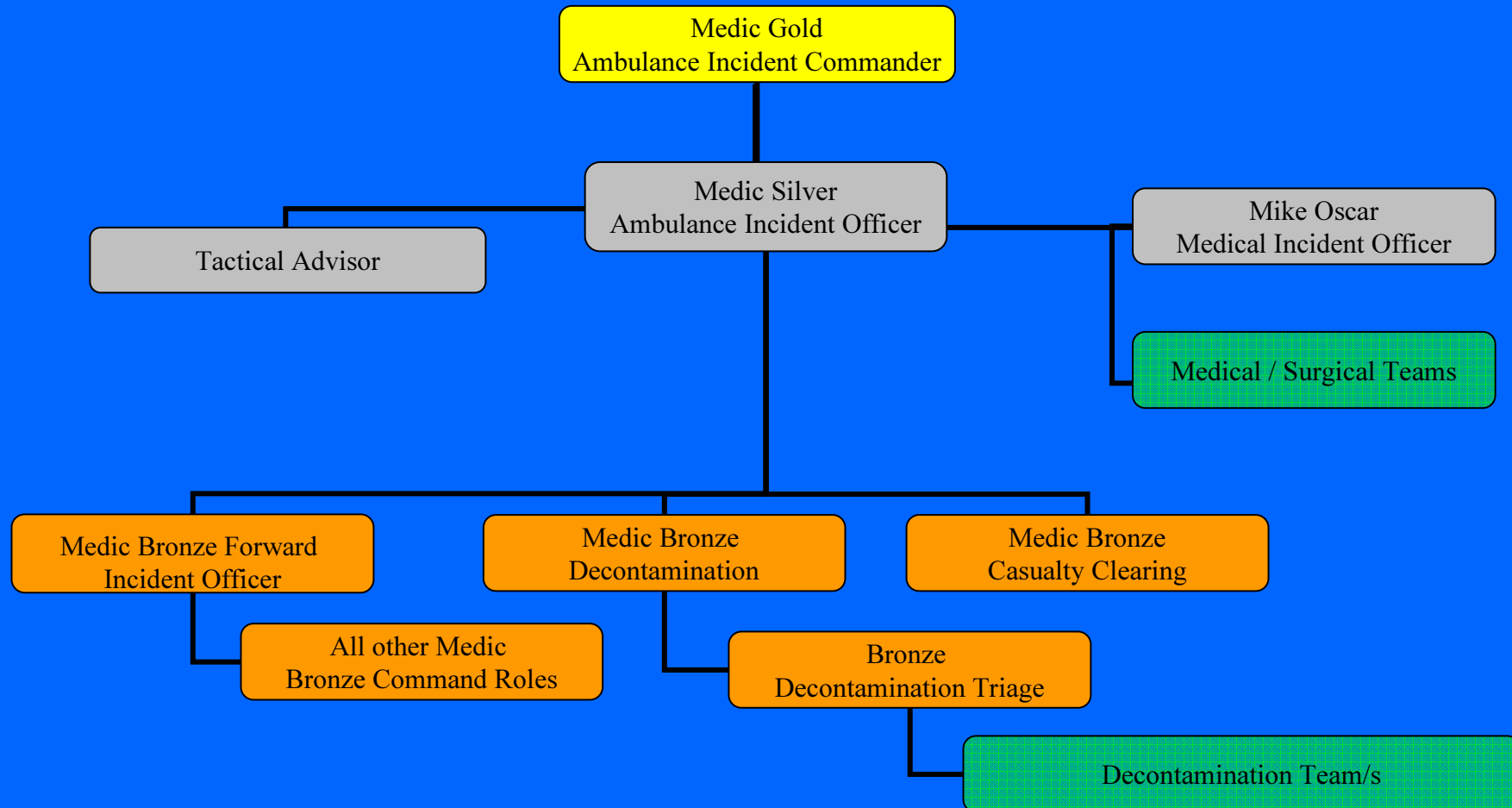


Ambulance Service Responsibilities

- The Saving of Life
- Medical Assessment of the Incident to include clinical indicators of CBR substances
- Provision & Co-ordination of all NHS resources i.e. Health Command & Control Structure
- Triage, Decontamination, Treatment and Transportation of Casualties
- Maintain normal Operational Service Delivery



Command & Control





Responsibilities for Decontamination

National & Local Memorandum of
Understanding between Ambulance and
Fire Services

Invoked for incidents involving Mass
Casualties



New Decontamination Equipment





Tyvek TK Powered Respirator Protective suits





Decontamination

....is a procedure employed to remove hazardous materials from people, equipment, buildings and/or the environment.



Clinical Decontamination

....is the medical procedure to treat patients affected by or contaminated with hazardous materials. The prioritisation of casualties prior to decontamination requires the input of specialist NHS staff.



Emergency Decontamination

....is a procedure carried out when time does not allow for the deployment of specialist NHS resources and it is judged as imperative that decontamination of people is carried out as soon as possible. Improvised equipment may be used in lieu of dedicated facilities.

It is recognised by all that emergency decontamination may carry risks to certain groups. The process should fall under the clinical control of the NHS



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CLINICAL DECONTAMINATION

Triage
Sieve

Casualties

Decon
Shower

Decon
Shower



Cas Clearing
Triage
Sort

Loading
Point

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**HOT
ZONE**

**WARM
ZONE**

**COLD
ZONE**



Triage - *To Sort*

- Process of identifying by clinical condition the priority and order in which casualties need to be treated / decontaminated
- ALL Walking casualties will be classed as Delayed – Priority 3, and as such directed to new dimensions mass casualty showers



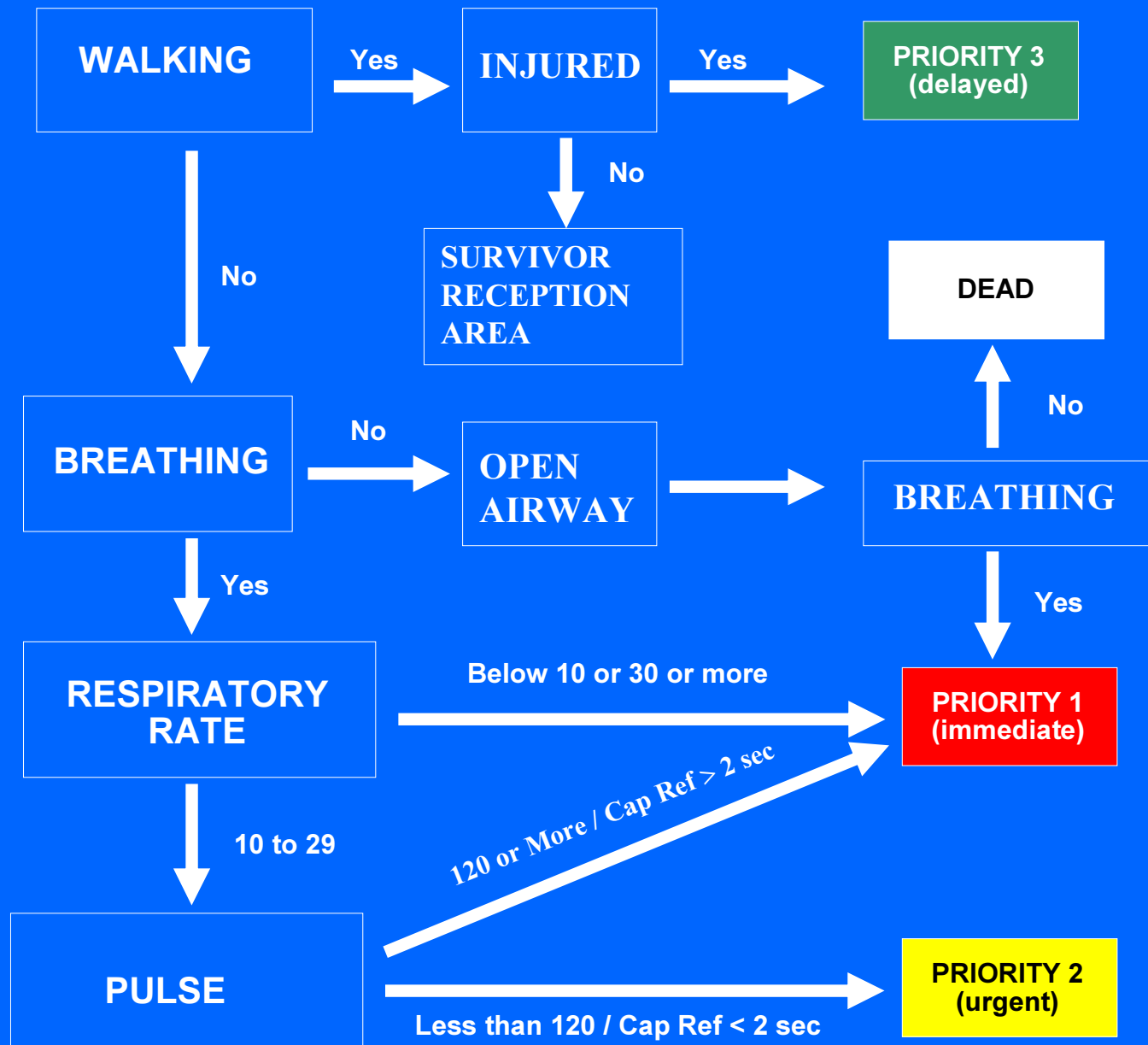
Triage

Triage Sieve takes place in the Warm Zone prior to Clinical Decontamination, whilst wearing CPPE

Triage Sort takes place in Casualty Clearing in the Cold Zone following clinical decontamination

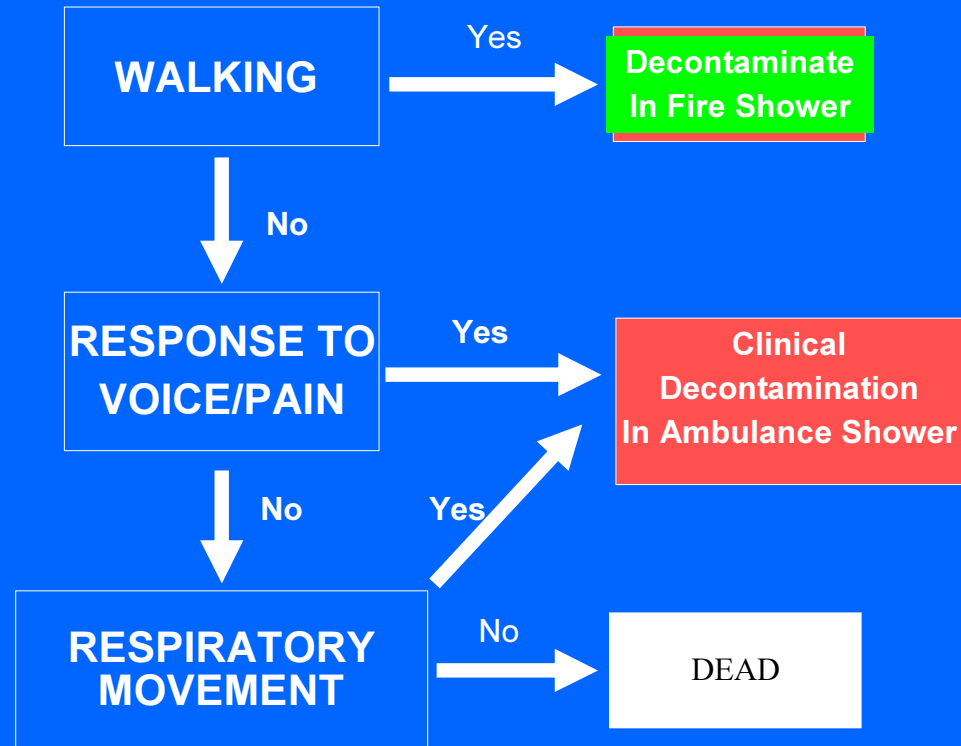


Triage Sieve





Triage in CPPE





Mass Casualty Vehicles

- Specialised Equipment Vehicle
- 100 Priority 1 & 2 Patients
- 250 Priority 3 Patients
- National Reserves of Nerve Agent Antidote combo pens



Alerting the Health System

- Other Emergency Services
- Receiving Hospitals
- Neighbouring Ambulance Services
- Lead Primary Care Trust
- HPA or Local Health Protection Unit
- The local Health economy





The “Knock on” effect if CBR

- Self presentation of mass casualties at Hospitals and other Health Centres
- Hospitals invoking “Lock down” Procedure’s
- Mutual Aid required at site and Hospitals
- Normal service severely disrupted due to possible contamination at hospitals
- PANIC!!!!



Issues

- What is left behind?
- What is the new normality?



Where are we now?

- National Memorandums of Understanding
- National Procurement & Training
- 6 Units of Equipment kept in six vehicles across South Central Area.
- 10 Incident Support Vehicles being rolled out
- HART roll out 2010
- Mass Casualties Vehicles Being delivered next month
- Continued collaborative working with partner agencies